

# CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

WALTER M. DICKIE, M.D., Director

## Weekly Bulletin



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GUY P. JONES  
EDITOR

## *California Health Records Broken in 1938*

Death rates for typhoid fever, tuberculosis and diphtheria were reduced measurably in 1938 and it would appear that these rates may be approaching an irreducible minimum. The control of typhoid fever constitutes a typical example of the results that may be achieved through the application of standard practical measures that make use of the principles of engineering, sanitation and preventive medicine. In 1906 32 out of every 100,000 people living in California died of typhoid fever, and in 1938 the death rate was 0.83 per 100,000 population. While the most outstanding reductions and deaths from these diseases occurred prior to 1920, there have been marked decreases since that year. In 1920 the typhoid case rates was 32.8 and the death rate was 4.9, as compared with a case rate of 7.1 in 1938 and a death rate of 0.83.

Let it be remembered that California is dependent largely upon surface streams for public water supplies and surface streams are much more liable of pollution than underground sources. Great vigilance must be observed, therefore, in the protection of public water supplies taken from surface sources. The fact that California has achieved a typhoid rate, under the circumstances, that is comparable to similar rates in states where sources are found mostly in underground supplies, may be considered a matter of pride to state and local health organizations.

Public water supplies are adequately protected and outbreaks due to contaminated milk supplies seldom occur at this time. The custom of irrigating vegetables with water from contaminated sources has been eliminated. However, Mexicans and Orientals commonly drink water from open ditches and other polluted sources. Local health officers occasionally find typhoid carriers and measures are instituted promptly to prevent occurrence of cases of disease through contact with carriers. Group cases occur occasionally but not often. Most cases are sporadic.

The large body of efficient local health officers scattered throughout the state have been trained in their duties and are alert in their activities to prevent the occurrence of cases of this disease. Public water supplies are treated so as to prevent the occurrence of illness through any contingency of contamination that might occur. Safeguards are thrown up everywhere and with the present machinery running efficiently, it is unlikely that an epidemic of typhoid fever will occur anywhere except in the extreme rural districts.

The State Department of Public Health has led these activities through its sanitary engineering, sanitary inspection, and epidemiological functions. The Bureau of Sanitary Engineering, organized in 1915, approves of all plans for disposal of public sewage and for the provision of public water supplies. The



Bureau of Sanitary Inspection directs many of its activities toward the protection of domestic water supplies and the abatement of faulty practices in domestic sewage disposal. The Bureau of Epidemiology assists local health officers in diagnosis, epidemiological investigations including detection of carriers and the control of cases of this disease.

Under state leadership, local health departments throughout the state have been instrumental in bringing about the conquest of this disease and they may well be proud of their achievements in practically ridding California of a preventable disease that occurred commonly twenty-five years ago. In the annals of the state's health history, no record is more outstanding than that of typhoid fever control.

#### DIPHTHERIA

The record in diphtheria control is almost as outstanding as that of typhoid fever control. In 1920 the state's diphtheria case rate was 164.1 per 100,000 population and the death rate was 12.8. In 1938 the diphtheria case rate was 24.3 and the death rate was 1.4. The decreases in the incidence and mortality from this disease have been steady throughout almost two decades, and the results achieved have come through the use of immunization procedures and extension of activities in public health education. More difficulties are encountered, naturally, in the control of a disease that is dependent upon the application of preventive measures upon the individual rather than upon the environment. Typhoid fever has been controlled largely through the correction of environmental conditions while diphtheria has been controlled through education and the application of immunization upon individuals.

In spite of the difficulties encountered, local health officers have been able to apply preventive measures, in their respective territories. The death rate of 1.4 per hundred thousand for this disease in 1938 indicates the efficiency of the program for the control of this disease and the thoroughness with which it is conducted. It was not so many years ago that diphtheria was the greatest scourge of childhood.

#### INFANT MORTALITY

Since 1920 the California infant mortality rate has been almost cut in half. In 1920 the rate was 75.0 per 1000 live births and in 1938 the rate was 43.8. The Bureau of Child Hygiene of the California State Department of Public Health has been active in stimulating the adoption of routine procedures throughout California that would provide safeguards against needless deaths of infants. In some communities of the state, where social and racial conditions are par-

ticularly favorable, infant mortality rates have been achieved that compare favorably with those of any communities throughout the world. The large Mexican population of California, however, precludes the possibility of reducing the state's infant mortality rate greatly.

Bad sanitary and social conditions, as well as congenital disease, makes the achievement of successful campaigns in the reduction of Mexican infant mortality extremely difficult. Approximately 15 per cent of all births in California are among Mexicans and approximately one-third of infant deaths that occur in California are in Mexican babies. In the 1938 tabulation, excluding the Mexican infant deaths, the rate of infant mortality for all races in California was a little more than 30 per 1000 live births. In consideration of the fact that, for biological reasons, a certain proportion of infant deaths can not be prevented, it would seem that the state infant mortality rate is fast approaching a point of stabilization, if not an irreducible minimum. Stimulated by Social Security funds, activities in local communities for the health protection of mothers and children have increased greatly during the past year. It must be remembered, however, that the infant mortality rate, to a large extent, is affected by conditions that are not under human control and that the annual general trend of the rate is similar throughout most of the country. The activities that are directed toward the saving of infant lives are productive of results, however, in spite of the fact that congenital defects play an important part in the production of high infant mortality rates.

#### SMALLPOX

In 1936 there were but 2.2 cases of smallpox per 100,000 population reported in California, while in 1920 there were 127.0 cases per 100,000 population. Since the method of prevention in the control of this disease is well known and has been practiced for decades, it is clear that the control of the disease depends entirely upon the thoroughness with which vaccination is applied.

In those communities where 50 per cent of the population is vaccinated against smallpox, the disease never becomes epidemic. The remarkable reductions in the prevalence of smallpox throughout California indicate the thoroughness with which public health measures are enforced by the health officers of California. In those counties where full-time health service is established, the general population has been offered vaccination freely.

In 1937 and 1938 the smallpox case rate has risen to 10.7 and 19.0 per 100,000 population, respectively.



These increases are not due to any laxity upon the part of public health authorities in California but rather to the importation of cases into the state by migratory agricultural laborers and spread of the disease in local communities. Contacts with cases in the families of migrants have contracted the disease and the increased prevalence is due to this fact. Although many cases have been brought into the state during the past few years, the State Department of Health, assisted by local health officers, has kept smallpox under control and no serious outbreaks have occurred among migratory agricultural laborers or contacts with cases in migrants. Had the resident population of California not been vaccinated against smallpox, it is certain that through contact with these itinerant cases widespread epidemics of this disease might have occurred.

California's record in the control of typhoid, smallpox, tuberculosis, diphtheria and infant mortality is outstanding and compares favorably with similar results that have been achieved in states that have made far greater expenditures in the protection of their public health. The achievement of these records has been dependent upon the efficiency of organizations and individual workers rather than upon the expenditures of vast sums of money.

The California State Department of Public Health takes justifiable pride in the activities of local health officers, public health nurses, and members of its own staff in the prevention of the diseases and savings in human lives that have come about through these coordinated activities.

#### CALIFORNIA RATES

	Typhoid		Smallpox		T.B.		Diphtheria		Infant Mortality
	Case	Death	Case	Death	Case	Death	Case	Death	
1920-----	32.8	4.9	127.0	250.0	152.6	164.6	12.8	75.0	
1930-----	13.0	1.7	54.8	197.0	98.2	53.6	3.4	58.6	
1935-----	8.5	1.2	4.9	131.3	72.0	33.7	2.1	49.5	
1936-----	9.3	1.1	2.2	125.9	72.2	31.4	2.0	53.0	
1937-----	7.7	0.87	10.7	124.3	67.8	23.5	1.6	53.7	
1938-----	7.1	0.83	19.0	115.2	60.5	24.3	1.4	43.8	

Live with those from whom you can learn; let friendly intercourse be a school for knowledge, and social contact, a school for culture; to make teachers of your friends is to join the need of learning to the joy of converse. Happiness among the understanding is mutual, rewarded for what they say by the approval they receive; and for what they hear, by what they learn; ordinarily it is personal interest that draws men together but here it is glorified. A man of understanding seeks out the houses of those true noblemen which are more the stages of an heroic than the palaces of vanity. There exist men in this world, known to the discerning, who in their bearing are veritable exemplars of every greatness and whose train, even, constitutes a courtly academy of art and of learning.

—Baltazar Gracian, 1653.

#### SUGAR BOWL LEGISLATION

A bill introduced in the Assembly by Mr. Bashore, A. B. 61, makes it "a misdemeanor for the owner or operator of any restaurant, confectionery, soda fountain, hotel or any other premises used for the furnishing, preparing or serving for a consideration of any tangible personal property for consumption on the premises of the person furnishing or preparing or serving such tangible personal property, to place sugar designed for the use of the patrons of such premises in any container which is not so inclosed as to make it impossible to insert a spoon or other item of tableware therein; provided, however, that nothing herein contained shall apply to the use of cube or lump sugar where the same is wrapped in paper or cellophane; and provided further, that the provisions of this section shall not apply to dining cars operated by carriers subject to the jurisdiction of the Interstate Commerce Commission."

This bill has passed the Assembly, at this writing, and is now before the Senate for consideration.

Safeguard the health both of body and soul. — Cleobulus.

#### MORBIDITY

Complete Reports for Following Diseases for Week Ending March 25, 1939

##### Chickenpox

1243 cases: Alameda County 34, Alameda 11, Berkeley 2, Livermore 22, Oakland 32, Piedmont 7, San Leandro 1, Butte County 18, Chico 19, Colusa County 3, Colusa 2, Contra Costa County 13, Antioch 7, Fresno County 25, Fresno 32, Sanger 1, Imperial County 1, Brawley 3, El Centro 2, Inyo County 6, Kern County 56, Bakersfield 1, Tehachapi 1, Los Angeles County 131, Alhambra 6, Arcadia 2, Burbank 1, Compton 4, Glendale 10, Huntington Park 7, Inglewood 4, La Verne 1, Long Beach 7, Los Angeles 172, Monrovia 4, Montebello 1, Pasadena 16, Pomona 5, San Fernando 2, San Gabriel 7, Santa Monica 11, Sierra Madre 1, South Pasadena 1, Lynwood 1, South Gate 10, Monterey Park 5, Signal Hill 1, Maywood 3, Bell 2, Madera County 15, Chowchilla 2, Ross 1, Ukiah 10, Monterey County 2, King City 1, Orange County 8, Anaheim 3, Brea 3, Huntington Beach 1, Laguna Beach 1, Placentia 1, Roseville 2, Beaumont 1, Corona 10, Elsinore 2, Riverside 2, San Jacinto 1, Sacramento County 10, Sacramento 39, San Bernardino County 6, Colton 1, San Diego County 23, Chula Vista 2, Coronado 1, El Cajon 5, National City 7, Oceanside 7, San Diego 96, San Francisco 71, San Joaquin County 33, Lodi 7, Stockton 22, San Luis Obispo County 5, Arroyo Grande 3, Paso Robles 5, San Luis Obispo 1, San Mateo County 8, Burlingame 2, Daly City 2, Hillsborough 2, San Bruno 8, San Mateo 5, San Carlos 1, Lompoc 1, Santa Barbara 5, Santa Maria 2, Santa Clara County 7, Mountain View 3, Palo Alto 5, San Jose 12, Sunnyvale 2, Santa Cruz County 3, Shasta County 1, Fairfield 2, Vallejo 1, Sonoma County 6, Santa Rosa 1, Modesto 2, Tehama County 2, Red Bluff 6, Tulare County 14, Porterville 5, Tulare 1, Visalia 1, Fillmore 2, Yolo County 4, Woodland 1, California 2.\*

##### Diphtheria

24 cases: Berkeley 3, Oakland 2, Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 4, Hollister 1, San Diego 2, San Francisco 2, San Luis Obispo County 1, San Luis Obispo 1, South San Francisco 1, Santa Clara County 2, San Jose 3, Santa Cruz County 1.

##### German Measles

46 cases: Alameda County 3, Alameda 3, Oakland 5, Fresno County 1, Kern County 2, Tehachapi 1, Los Angeles County 2, Alhambra 1, Hermosa Beach 1, Los Angeles 6, Pasadena 1, Madera County 1, Orange County 1, Anaheim 1, Santa Ana 3, Riverside County 1, Sacramento 1, San Bernardino County 1, San Bernardino 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 5, Burlingame 1, Porterville 1, Visalia 2.

##### Influenza

245 cases: Berkeley 39, Oakland 3, Contra Costa County 13, Fresno County 6, Kern County 2, Los Angeles County 10, Culver City 1, El Monte 3, El Segundo 1, Glendale 2, Long



Beach 2, Los Angeles 91, Pasadena 4, Pomona 2, San Gabriel 1, South Pasadena 4, South Gate 3, Madera County 3, Merced County 1, Monterey County 1, Napa County 2, Roseville 18, Palm Springs 1, San Francisco 13, Burlingame 2, San Mateo 1, Belmont 2, Santa Clara County 7, San Jose 1, Tehama County 1, Corning 5.

#### Malaria

One case: Brawley.

#### Measles

4894 cases: Alameda County 57, Alameda 103, Albany 51, Berkeley 381, Oakland 529, Hayward 2, Piedmont 14, San Leandro 27, Butte County 2, Chico 1, Colusa 1, Contra Costa County 95, Antioch 12, El Cerrito 13, Martinez 30, Pinole 7, Pittsburg 8, Fresno County 35, Fresno 21, Humboldt County 9, Arcata 20, Imperial County 1, Inyo County 15, Bishop 27, Kern County 9, Hanford 1, Lake County 30, Los Angeles County 229, Alhambra 17, Avalon 1, Burbank 15, Compton 4, Culver City 3, El Monte 3, Glendale 24, Huntington Park 8, Inglewood 7, La Verne 20, Long Beach 125, Los Angeles 801, Monrovia 6, Montebello 5, Pasadena 14, Pomona 1, Redondo 1, San Gabriel 2, San Marino 3, Santa Monica 9, South Pasadena 3, Torrance 11, Lynwood 17, Hawthorne 2, South Gate 8, Monterey Park 10, Maywood 1, Bell 3, Gardena 6, Madera County 15, Chowchilla 1, Marin County 36, Mill Valley 8, Ross 9, San Anselmo 8, San Rafael 47, Fairfax 22, Yosemite National Park 2, Ukiah 49, Gustine 9, Mono County 7, Monterey County 16, King City 1, Napa County 1, Napa 1, St. Helena 5, Orange County 11, Brea 1, Fullerton 7, Huntington Beach 29, Orange 1, Santa Ana 1, La Habra 4, Roseville 16, Riverside County 68, Banning 18, Beaumont 2, Corona 6, Elsinore 2, Perris 1, Riverside 20, San Jacinto 4, Indio 59, Palm Springs 6, Sacramento County 80, Sacramento 278, North Sacramento 8, Hollister 3, San Bernardino County 23, Colton 3, Ontario 3, Redlands 1, San Bernardino 53, San Diego County 9, National City 3, San Diego 69, San Francisco 222, San Joaquin County 28, Lodi 16, Manteca 2, Stockton 48, Tracy 7, San Luis Obispo County 13, Paso Robles 5, San Luis Obispo 1, San Mateo County 54, Burlingame 12, Hillsborough 2, Redwood City 33, San Bruno 1, San Mateo 45, Atherton 6, San Carlos 3, Menlo Park 13, Santa Clara County 57, Gilroy 3, Los Gatos 1, Mountain View 6, Palo Alto 11, San Jose 110, Sunnyvale 31, Santa Cruz County 20, Watsonville 38, Shasta County 7, Solano County 18, Benicia 3, Vallejo 3, Sonoma County 56, Healdsburg 12, Petaluma 27, Santa Rosa 9, Stanislaus County 25, Modesto 21, Tehama County 3, Corning 1, Tulare County 2, Porterville 11, Visalia 4, Ventura County 1, Yolo County 16, Davis 1.

#### Mumps

1093 cases: Alameda County 6, Alameda 7, Albany 7, Berkeley 91, Oakland 129, Piedmont 16, San Leandro 7, Butte County 1, Contra Costa County 40, Antioch 3, El Cerrito 5, Martinez 17, Pittsburg 8, El Dorado County 1, Placerville 5, Fresno County 29, Fresno 7, Humboldt County 1, Callexico 1, Kern County 32, Bakersfield 1, Lake County 1, Los Angeles County 32, Alhambra 2, Beverly Hills 1, Burbank 1, Compton 1, Glendale 12, Huntington Park 2, Long Beach 3, Los Angeles 65, Pasadena 11, Pomona 1, Redondo 1, San Fernando 1, San Marino 3, South Pasadena 1, Lynwood 2, South Gate 2, Bell 2, Madera County 19, Madera 1, Marin County 1, San Anselmo 2, Yosemite National Park 2, Ukiah 1, Merced County 19, Monterey County 1, Monterey 2, Soledad 1, Napa 3, Orange County 3, Santa Ana 4, Placentia 2, Roseville 1, Plumas County 31, Riverside County 12, Banning 3, Beaumont 6, Riverside 10, Indio 2, Sacramento County 7, Sacramento 51, North Sacramento 2, San Bernardino County 9, Ontario 5, San Diego County 8, Chula Vista 1, San Diego 12, San Francisco 62, San Joaquin County 46, Stockton 25, Tracy 1, San Luis Obispo County 11, San Luis Obispo 12, San Mateo County 11, Burlingame 8, Redwood City 1, Menlo Park 3, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Barbara 3, Santa Clara County 1, San Jose 5, Santa Cruz County 13, Watsonville 2, Shasta County 5, Siskiyou County 2, Solano County 1, Benicia 1, Rio Vista 15, Vallejo 4, Sonoma County 1, Santa Rosa 1, Stanislaus County 3, Modesto 6, Turlock 1, Corning 2, Red Bluff 1, Tulare County 15, Exeter 8, Porterville 1, Visalia 4, Yolo County 27, Davis 1, Woodland 10.

#### Pneumonia (Lobar)

97 cases: Berkeley 1, Oakland 5, El Dorado County 2, Humboldt County 1, Eureka 1, El Centro 1, Inyo County 2, Delano 1, Los Angeles County 10, Burbank 1, Glendale 1, Los Angeles 34, Pomona 2, San Fernando 1, Santa Monica 2, Marin County 1, Orange County 1, Santa Ana 1, Corona 1, Riverside 1, Indio 1, Sacramento 3, San Bernardino County 1, San Diego County 1, San Diego 2, San Francisco 14, San Luis Obispo County 1, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Clara County 1, Santa Rosa 1, Tulare County 1.

#### Scarlet Fever

260 cases: Alameda County 2, Berkeley 3, Oakland 5, Piedmont 1, Colusa County 2, Contra Costa County 7, Fresno County 5, Fresno 4, Glenn County 2, Imperial County 1, Callexico 2, Los Angeles County 33, Alhambra 3, Burbank 3, Compton 2, Culver City 1, Glendale 3, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 64, Monrovia 1, Pasadena 4, Pomona 3, San Gabriel 1, Santa Monica 1, Whittier 1, Torrance 1, South Gate 2, San Rafael 1, Merced County 1, Monterey County 3, Salinas 1, Nevada City 2, Anaheim 2, Fullerton 1, Orange 3, Santa Ana 2, Plumas County 4, Riverside County 1, Riverside

3, San Jacinto 1, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 2, San Bernardino County 4, Ontario 2, San Diego 10, San Francisco 27, San Joaquin County 5, Stockton 1, Tracy 1, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Clara County 2, San Jose 2, Santa Cruz County 1, Solano County 1, Vacaville 1, Stanislaus County 4, Turlock 1, Tehama County 2, Tulare County 3, Visalia 1, Yolo County 3.

#### Smallpox

26 cases: Imperial County 1, Lassen County 1, Los Angeles County 1, Long Beach 1, Sacramento 1, San Bernardino 2, San Luis Obispo County 3, Tulare County 14, Tulare 2.

#### Typhoid Fever

2 cases: Santa Ana 1, Indio 1.

#### Whooping Cough

188 cases: Albany 3, Oakland 1, Contra Costa County 2, Imperial County 4, Kern County 22, Los Angeles County 26, Alhambra 2, Claremont 1, Glendale 1, Hermosa 1, Huntington Park 2, Long Beach 13, Los Angeles 17, Redondo 2, San Fernando 1, Sierra Madre 1, South Gate 1, Marin County 2, San Rafael 1, Fairfax 1, Monterey County 2, Grass Valley 2, Orange County 10, Anaheim 3, Fullerton 5, Santa Ana 1, Lincoln 1, Riverside County 1, San Diego 18, San Francisco 7, San Joaquin County 2, Burlingame 2, San Mateo 2, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Barbara 5, Sonoma County 8, Tulare County 3, Porterville 1, Oxnard 1, Yolo County 8, Winters 1.

#### Meningitis (Epidemic)

5 cases: Berkeley 1, Imperial County 1, Merced County 1, Sacramento 1, San Francisco 1.

#### Dysentery (Amoebic)

2 cases: Pasadena 1, Ontario 1.

#### Dysentery (Bacillary)

2 cases: Bishop 1, Los Angeles 1.

#### Pellagra

4 cases: Hayward 1, Los Angeles County 1, Santa Ana 1, Yolo County 1.

#### Trachoma

2 cases: Indio.

#### Botulism

One case: Sacramento County.

#### Food Poisoning

14 cases: Los Angeles 4, San Francisco 2, San Luis Obispo County 8.

#### Undulant Fever

5 cases: Chico 1, Ontario 1, Red Bluff 1, Ventura 1, California 1.\*

#### Tularemia

One case: Los Angeles County.

#### Coccidioidal Granuloma

One case: Sacramento.

#### Septic Sore Throat

4 cases: Los Angeles County 1, Pasadena 3.

#### Rabies (Animal)

40 cases: Kern County 2, Los Angeles County 5, Alhambra 1, Hermosa 1, Los Angeles 2, San Marino 1, Torrance 2, Monterey Park 2, Bell 1, Monterey County 5, Monterey 4, Pacific Grove 2, Chula Vista 1, San Luis Obispo 1, San Mateo County 2, Burlingame 1, Santa Clara County 5, San Jose 1, Tulare County 1.

\* Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the state or those who contracted their illness traveling about the state throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

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